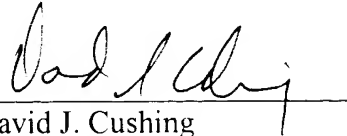


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
Attorney Docket No. Q68616

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

4. (Amended) An optical fiber according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that it includes a low-index polymer coating (20) around its second cladding and in that the interface between the second cladding and said coating has a substantially polygonal or multilobed cross section.

7. (Amended) A method according to ~~either claim 5 or claim 6~~ claim 5, characterized in that the central optical preform (11) is, after drawing, an optical fiber pumped through the cladding consisting of a core having an index n_1 , a first cylindrical cladding of circular section surrounding the core and having an index n_2 lower than n_1 , and a second cylindrical cladding of circular section surrounding the first cladding and having an index n_3 .

8. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, characterized in that the central optical preform and the rods having an index n_3 are placed in a sleeve (5, 16) within which the atmosphere is controlled for drawing by establishing a vacuum or a partial pressure of neutral gases such as helium or reagents such as C_2F_6 .

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10. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, characterized in that the interstices between the rods (15) having an index n_3 are filled and the atmosphere in the volume delimited by the rods is controlled for drawing by establishing a vacuum or a partial pressure of neutral gases such as helium or reagents such as C_2F_6 .

11. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 5 to 10~~ claim 5, characterized in that the second cladding is enveloped in a low-index polymer coating (20).

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